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NTU Spotlight (Issue 173) "Fighting against Viral Hepatitis: Lessons from Taiwan," a paper written by Professor Ding- Shinn CHEN, a Chair professor by special appointment at NTU's Department of Internal Medicine, was published in August Issue of Hepatology, the leading journal in the study of liver diseases. Listed under the title of "Master's Perspective", Professor CHEN's paper discussed in length Taiwan's outstanding performance in the prevention and treatment of viral hepatitis, chronic liver diseases, and liver cancer.

Professor CHEN's paper points out that, viral hepatitis and its consequences pose a serious health threat to mankind, including Taiwan. Over the past forty years Taiwan's scientists and health care providers invested considerable efforts to control the infection of viral hepatitis and its sequelae, and achieved outstanding results. National Taiwan University's medical research team consistently spearheaded the research and prevention of viral hepatitis for decades, and Professor Ding-Shinn CHEN especially played a pivotal role in this area.

The article describes how as a student, Professor CHEN became interested in research and how he became immersed in the study of type B and type C hepatitis and chronic liver diseases. It also describes in length how Professor CHEN conducted early diagnosis and treatment of hepatocellular carcinoma with his colleagues and how he assisted the government in establishing a viral hepatitis prevention and control plan, which effectively reduced the carrier rate of B hepatitis and curtailed the incidence rate of hepatocellular carcinoma. Other details included how Professor CHEN first used the injection of interferon combined with the use of oral form of ribavirin to treat chronic hepatitis C patients, and how he conducted research on D hepatitis viruses, etc., Professor CHEN explained these details from his personal point of view. In matters of fact, he described the efforts that Taiwan spent on the prevention and cure of virus hepatitis during the past forty years, which can be a good reference for other countries which are similarly beleaguered by virus hepatitis. At the end of the article, Professor CHEN talked about the problems that remain to be solved, and predicted the situations which people of Taiwan will face in terms of liver diseases after the middle of the century. His predictions can be said to be quite prognostic. Because of his scholastic achievements, Professor CHEN was elected academician of Academia Sinica in 1992, Fellow of the Third World Academy of Sciences in 2001, and foreign associate for the National Academy of Sciences of the U.S. in 2005. In essence, Professor Ding-Shinn CHEN can be said to be a virtuoso in the field of hepatology.

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